



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Missouri Residents and Businesses Affected by Severe Storms, Tornadoes and Flooding

SACRAMENTO – Steve Preston, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that low-interest disaster loans are now available to residents and businesses affected by the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred January 7 through January 10, 2008.

By declaring a disaster, Administrator Preston's action makes the SBA assistance available. The declaration covers the counties of **Christian, Dallas, Douglas, Greene, Laclede, Webster and Wright.**

"We look forward to working with Missouri and the people affected by the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding to make SBA disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses," said Administrator Preston.

Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West, said that following the state's February 28 decision not to appeal the February 19 denial of their request for a major disaster declaration, SBA acted under its own authority to declare these counties a disaster area.

"Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding," said David Ross, SBA's Acting Kansas City District Director.

"SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Center beginning Tuesday, March 4 on the days and times indicated to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," Ross continued.

Webster County

Webster County 911 Communications Center
565 South Prairie Lane
Marshfield, MO

Mondays through Fridays from 9 am – 6 pm

Tuesday, March 4 through Thursday, March 20
Tuesday, April 15 through Friday, May 2

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace their damaged or destroyed primary residence. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help homeowners and business owners with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses only, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Individuals and business owners may obtain information by calling **(800) 659-2955** or visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may contact SBA at (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **May 2, 2008**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **December 3, 2008**.